



CITIZEN SCIENCE



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

1EAK-M4PL-344E



1

Warm up

You are going to listen to a talk about scientific research. Before you listen, complete the timeline of a typical research project with words from the box. The * symbol marks academic vocabulary.

acquire / analyze / causes / encounter / measures
overcome / question / recruit / resilience / setback

- pose a _____
 - _____ volunteers* / participants*
 - collect and _____ * data*
 - _____ * a problem or an issue* / face a hurdle / experience a _____
 - troubleshoot the _____ of the problem
 - _____ the obstacle
 - take _____ to avoid future pitfalls
 - _____ * new skills
 - develop _____
- All of the items in the timeline are collocations. What type of collocations are they?
 - Can you think of some common problems, issues, hurdles, or setbacks that might occur during a research project?
 - Which noun means problems or mistakes that are likely to happen in a specific situation? How is this different to the other negative events in the exercise?
 - Resilience means achieving success after coming through a difficult experience. Why is this an important quality for researchers to have?



2

Before you listen

You are going to practice an IELTS exam listening task with sentence and table completion questions. First, read the information about this section and the tips for answering these question types.

Information: Section 4 of the IELTS listening exam

There will be one speaker giving a lecture or presentation about an academic subject. You are being tested on how well you follow the arguments presented and recover detailed information.

On the exam, you only hear the recording once.

On the day of the exam, you will have ten minutes at the end of the listening to record your answers on the answer sheet.

Tips:

- Before the recording begins, look through the questions and try to predict what type of information is missing.
- Read the instructions carefully so you know how many words/numbers you can write. You will hear the missing words that you need to write. Pay attention to spelling and singular and plural forms.
- Don't leave any questions unanswered on your answer sheet, even if you're not sure of the correct response. There are no penalties for guessing on this exam.

3

IELTS Listening Section 4

Answer the questions below. Write no more than three words or a number for each answer.



1. The speaker didn't think it was going to be possible for just one person to _____ for his project.
2. Citizen scientists share information using _____ technology.
3. It turns out that humans can analyze _____ better than computers.
4. Participants in citizen science learn new skills and try out _____.
5. The speaker suggests using the citizen science model for students' _____.



Complete the table below. Write no more than two words or a number for each answer.

project name	what volunteers do	why the project is important
Walrus from Space	They identify and count walruses in 6) _____	It helps us understand how these animals are coping with a reduction in 7) _____.
EterRNA	They analyze data by 8) _____.	It will eventually benefit 9) _____.
Scribes of the Cairo Geniza	They help to translate ancient hand-written documents from Egypt.	It is a model of a good way for 10) _____ and volunteers to work together.

4

Language in context

Read these sentences from the listening and explain the meaning of the phrases in bold.

1. I had planned to use a computer program to identify the species from the images, but the program I was using had too many **glitches**, ...
2. Substituting citizen scientists for the computer program was a big **breakthrough**. Data analysis is now quick and reliable.
3. This project **exemplifies** how to set up complex collaborations between various international institutions and normal people.

Which item is the most formal? The most informal?

Should you use all these items in your IELTS speaking and writing?



5

Speaking

Part 1: You are going to practice an IELTS exam speaking task. First, read the information about this section and the tips for answering these question types.

Information: Part 3 of the speaking exam

The examiner asks you questions about a topic related to the short talk you gave in Part 2.

This is meant to be a discussion between you and the examiner.

This stage lasts 4-5 minutes and you might answer 6-8 questions.

Tips:

- Listen carefully for the topics and themes of the questions.
- If you aren't sure what the examiner is asking, you can ask them to repeat the question. Don't be afraid to do this, as it demonstrates good communication skills. However, the examiner cannot rephrase the question.
- If you haven't got much direct experience of the situation in the question, you should still give some sort of answer by saying, "I'm afraid I don't know very much about that, but it reminds me of something similar...."





Part 2: Before you speak, read the five questions and decide how they relate to the theme of problems and solutions. What vocabulary from the box could you use in your answers?

acquire new skills / avoid pitfalls / collect and analyze data
make a breakthrough / develop resilience / experience setbacks
face hurdles / find glitches / overcome obstacles / pose questions
take measures / troubleshoot the causes of problems

1. Is it more effective for people to work alone or together when they encounter problems? Why?
2. What can we learn from making mistakes? How can we encourage young people not to give up when they meet with problems at school or at home?
3. Why do you think some people believe that violence solves problems?
4. What sort of research can we do to address the issue of climate change? Who is responsible for doing this: governments, businesses or individual people?
5. What other types of research would benefit people the most?

Part 3: Answer the questions, using your own ideas and words/phrases related to problems and solutions where appropriate. Remember to explain your opinions using reasons and examples and explore other points of view where you can.

When you finish speaking, think about how you could do better next time. Choose one area from the box that you want to improve. Then answer the questions again, making that improvement.

- **Content:** include better ideas or develop them more.
- **Vocabulary:** include more relevant vocabulary related to the topic or the theme of problems and solutions.
- **Grammar:** be more accurate with structures.
- **Pronunciation:** be clear enough to understand.
- **Self-presentation:** make eye contact, use confident body language or speak more fluently.



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Optional extension

Reading and listening to authentic materials in English will help you to prepare for the IELTS exam. Not only will it improve your language skills and vocabulary, but it will also give you ideas for some of the topics in the speaking and writing papers. You will feel more confident and make a positive impression on the examiner if you can introduce your ideas in the speaking exam with one of the phrases in the box.

Useful language for the speaking exam:

- I recently read an article on this subject.
- I was listening to a podcast about this last week.
- I just saw/heard on the news that ...
- I came across an interesting website that relates to this the other day.
- We were actually talking about this in class not long ago.

Try this authentic reading activity.

The Zooniverse website is a platform for a wide range of citizen science projects. Spend a few minutes looking through the projects and choose one that you might like to join. Compare ideas with your classmates, explaining what the project is, why it's important and why you'd like to take part.